BHEW Bulletin

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Methamphetamine Use on the Rise



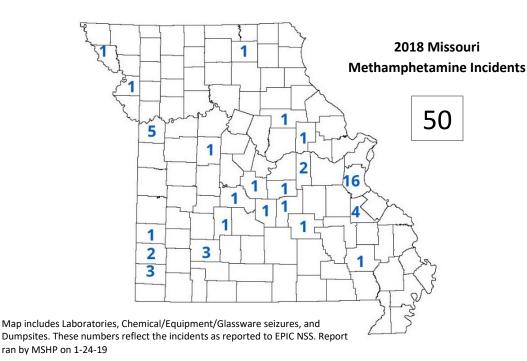
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Methamphetamine use continues to be a serious public health concern in Missouri. From 2012 to 2018, the number of Missourians receiving treatment for meth use increased by 76%. In 2018, 7,857 people received treatment, compared to 4,460 in 2012. National death rates for psychostimulants, such as methamphetamine, amphetamine, and methylphenidate, also increased by approximately 30% every year, from 0.8 in 2012 to 3.9 in 2018.

Federal and state regulations began restricting the sale of over-the-counter cold medications, often used in during meth production, in 2006. As a result, production in Missouri has drastically decreased: the number of meth lab incidents decreased 96% between 2006 and 2018.³ Today, however, experts believe that most meth is being transported to major U.S. cities from Mexico, yielding cheaper and more potent drugs.⁴

According to the DEA:

- In 2019, St. Louis was one of eight major transportation hubs in the U.S., which combined account for more than 75% of all meth seized that year.
- From 2017-2019, domestic seizures increased 127%, from 49,507 lbs. to 112,146 lbs.
- From 2017-2019, meth-related arrests increased by 20%.
- From 2018-2019, the St. Louis Division seizures alone increased by 56%⁴.



Behavioral Health



- Missouri Department of Mental Health, 2018. Substance use and compulsive gambling treatment admissions, Missouri Statewide.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020. Drug Overdose Deaths in the United States, 1999–2018.
- . Missouri State Highway Patrol, 2018. Meth Lab Statistics.
- 4. Drug Enforcement Administration, 2020. DEA St. Louis Division's Operation Crystal Shield backed by U.S. Attorneys.